

There Is A Master Plan

"What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger", Part 7 of 7
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"Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him."

(Genesis 37:3-4, NIV)

I) GAINING PERSPECTIVE ON PREDICAMENTS

What To See In It

1) God sees everything we're going through, and HE CARES!

"But the Lord was with Joseph." (Genesis 39:2 taken to Egypt, Genesis 39:21&23 in prison, Genesis 48:21,49:24-25 when Jacob died).

2) God allows everybody freedom to choose, but HE WATCHES!

"[His brothers] hated him so much they wouldn't speak to him in a friendly manner... Let's not kill him... let's throw him into this well so he'll die without our touching him!"
(Genesis 37:4 & 22, TEV)

"After a while his master's wife began to desire Joseph and asked him to go to bed with her. He refused...But she asked day after day...[Then she falsely claimed]: 'That Hebrew slave... tried to rape me!'"
(Genesis 39:7,10,17, LB)

"Please be kind enough to mention me to the king and help me get out of this prison... But the wine steward never gave Joseph another thought-- he forgot all about him."
(Genesis 40:14,23, NIV)

3) God has ultimate control, so HE OWNS THE FINAL OUTCOME!

"The Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did."
(Genesis 39:23, NIV)

II) SHAPING OUR REACTION TO PREDICAMENTS

How To Respond To It

1) Work: Fulfill your responsibilities RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

"Pharaoh: 'Who could do a better job than Joseph? For he is a man who is obviously filled with the Spirit of God.' Turning to Joseph, Pharaoh said to him, 'Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, you are the wisest man in the country! I am hereby appointing you to be in charge... what you say goes, throughout...Egypt. I alone will outrank you.'"
(Genesis 41:38-40, LB)

See Joseph's two children and their names:. (Genesis 41:50-52)

2) Wait: Maintain your perspective UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER.

"Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph! Is my father still living?' But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then [He] said, 'Come close to me... I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and... angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you... it was not you who sent me here, but God.'"
(Genesis 45:3-5,8a, NIV)

3) Watch: Reject the temptation TO FIGHT INSTEAD OF FORGIVE.

"When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, 'What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back?... So they sent word to Joseph, saying, 'Your father left these instructions before he died...' I ask you to forgive your brothers... in treating you so badly...' When their message came to him, Joseph wept.... 'Don't be afraid, I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them."
(Genesis 50:15-17, 21, NIV)

III) LEARNING FROM GOD IN OUR PREDICAMENTS

What To Learn About It

*God has the PERFECT MASTER PLAN for our predicaments.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."
(Genesis 50:20, NIV)